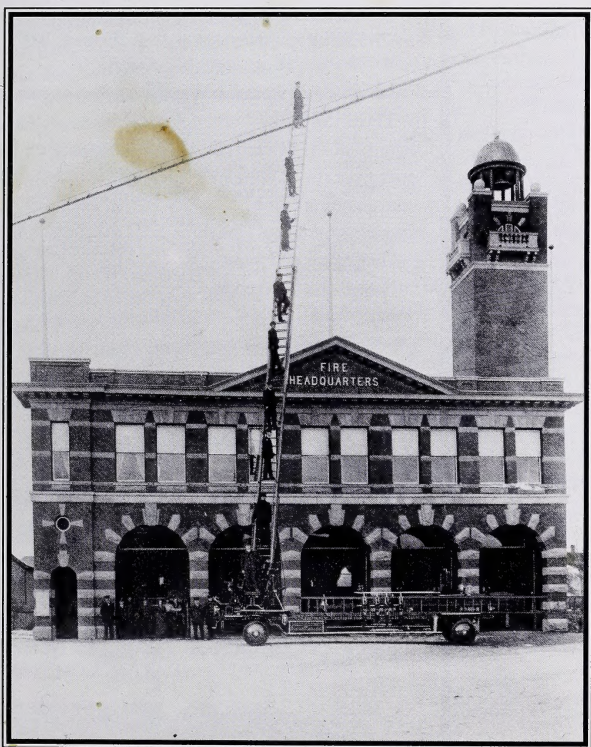




THE CORNERSTONE



Firehall #1, Calgary

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, a Provincial Crown Agency, was established in 1976 to assist in the preservation of the Province's historic buildings, sites and objects and to encourage and promote public awareness of Alberta's past. Donations and bequests of funds or property receive the tax benefit of a donation to the Crown.

Annual dues are \$10.00 which entitles a supporter to receive the Foundation's quarterly Journal, **The Cornerstone**.

Albertans are invited to contact the Foundation's office with their enquires, news and information of subjects and events which they want to share through the pages of **The Cornerstone**.

Please direct all enquires to:

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Alberta Historical

Resources Foundation

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Barbara Dacks

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THE CORNERSTONE

Journal of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

COVER PHOTO: Firehall #1, on 6th Avenue S.E., Calgary, shown here in use in 1912, is one of the city's most important landmarks. Designed by architects Land and Major with assistance from associate architects Hodgson, Bates and Butler, and constructed of brick and sandstone in 1911, it replaced an earlier firehall, a wooden structure, built in 1887, on 7th Avenue. Firehall #1 served as Calgary's main fire station until 1973 and is closely associated with Fire Chief James 'Cappy' Smart, a widely acclaimed fire fighter. The main floor contains brick arches and pressed metal ceiling panels. The basement walls display paintings done by early Calgary firemen. In 1975 the Province designated the building as a Registered Historic Resource. Mr. Sherali Saju, president of Budget Rent-a-Car, Calgary, won the Foundation's 1990 Architectural Heritage Award for the restoration of this vital historic building (see Heritage Awards Winners 1990, p.10). Photo Credit: Glenbow-Alberta Institute Archives.

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Editorial Policy

The purpose of THE CORNERSTONE is primarily to inform others of the Foundation's activities and secondarily to communicate heritage news from around the province. The foundation is unable to pay for articles or photographs used in THE CORNERSTONE. Use of submitted material is at the discretion of the Editor.

PRIMARY FUNDING FOR THE ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION COMES FROM





Message From The Minister

Dear Foundation Members,

Exciting things have been happening in the heritage field in Alberta in recent years. Attendance is growing rapidly in an expanding network of community museums across the province, with particular impacts on school programming and tourism. Archives are networking in new ways to improve service and efficiency, and functioning as a backbone for the heritage field. Historical buildings are being recycled with unprecedented frequency by both the private and public sectors in this province. And important new research, publication and education activities related to our heritage are taking place throughout Alberta.

For its part, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism has tried to provide technical assistance and support to encourage this growth in the field, perhaps now most visible in the development of a network of major provincial heritage attractions across the province. With a substantial funding base from the Alberta Lotteries, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation has also become a major force in enabling community-based heritage projects and in involving the grass roots.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for their role in assisting community heritage projects, and to thank the Foundation's membership for actually creating the local initiatives that reach all Albertans. We all need the sense of pride, community, and place that heritage preservation and interpretation can provide. With our historical resources, we have tangible proof of where we have been, in order to better plan our future. And aside from showing Albertans why we are special, our historical resources have become intriguing to those from elsewhere who wish to better understand us and our environment.

It is now our challenge to build on the accomplishments in the heritage field during the last decade, towards a future that very much includes an appreciation and understanding of our past. The Government of Alberta looks forward to its partnership with heritage interests across the province, and in particular applauds the Foundation's efforts in involving citizens in heritage projects and making historical resources accessible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Doug Main".

Doug Main
Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism

Message From The Foundation's Chairman

Dear Foundation Members,

It has been an extremely busy Fall for the Foundation this year.

Two year extensions have recently been granted to the Alberta Main Street Programmes in the Crowsnest Pass, Cardston and Lacombe, and a one year continuation provided to Drumheller. These initiatives are truly helping to revitalize the historic commercial cores of these communities, restoring warm and distinctive streetscapes, and attracting more local business and tourism, all at relatively low costs. In future, we hope to expand both Main Street and historic area conservation activities.

The recent administrative streamlining of the Foundation has lead to considerable new monies for grants this Fall. Applications from over 125 heritage projects are currently under review and will be adjudicated by the Foundation's Board of Directors at their November meeting. These requests vary from historic building restorations to pioneer cemetery work, to research and publication proposals from across Alberta. Incidentally, the Board is also attempting to regularly rotate its meeting locations around the province. So far this year, sessions have been held in Edmonton, Calgary, Crowsnest Pass, and Drumheller, with the November meeting in Wetaskiwin.

This issue of CORNERSTONE features a special item on the 1990 Heritage Awards Programme of the Foundation. I'd again like to congratulate both the winners and all the nominees, as well as to thank the nominators. A large and highly qualified field of candidates was evident this year, and the selection process was difficult for the Awards Committee and the Board. As a result, the Service Award category was expanded this year, and in future, a Municipal Heritage Award category will be introduced.

A vital issue for the Foundation and some of its associated provincial heritage organizations is the renewal of the License from the Alberta Lotteries which provides base funding. A package from the Foundation consolidating these requests in the heritage field has gone forth to the provincial government for consideration. The current license is set to expire in March 1991. A new five year license is being sought with some expansion and new initiatives planned.

Please accept my best wishes for the season and thank you for your continuing interest in preserving and interpreting Alberta's heritage.

Sincerely Yours,



Charlach Mackintosh
Chairman of the Board
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

Did You Know That . . .

. . . the oldest building still on its original site in Alberta is the Hudson's Bay Company Clerks Quarters at Fort Victoria, built in 1864?

. . . the Gibbons Anglican Church was built in 1902 and its interior is built like a ship?

. . . the only national historic park in Alberta is located at Rocky Mountain House, on or near the site of several original fur trading posts dating from 1800? The park outlines the history of the Peigan Indians, David Thompson and the fur trade.

. . . the largest summer snowfall recorded in Canada was on June 29, 1963 at Livingston Ranger Station, Alberta? 111.8 cm!

You can find these and other fascinating facts scattered on the Trivia Map of Alberta, recently published by Don Blake of Edmonton. Mr. Blake, author of two books about the history of British Columbia, drew the map by hand and filled it with information from The Alberta Trivia Book, written by him and published by Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, last spring. "I travelled all over Alberta and just jotted down interesting bits of information," he reports. The bibliography for both map and book are contained in the book.

The map features Mr. Blake's photographs of many of the sites. They presented some challenges, he recalls. "It was fun trying to locate the exact spot to show Moraine Lake as it is pictured on the \$20 bill."

History buffs who enjoy trivia as Mr. Blake does can obtain a copy of the map for \$2.95 by contacting Don Blake, #1013, 10770 Winterburn Road N.W., Edmonton, AB T5S 1T6. Phone: 447-3193. The Foundation wishes to thank Mr. Blake for presenting a copy of the map to its Evelyn de Mille Reference Library.

REMINDER

The next grant funding date is February 1, 1991 in the following categories:

- Feasibility & Planning Studies
- Historic Resources Preservation
- Workshops, Seminars, Conferences
- Research
- Professional Development
- Education
- Publications
- Heritage Awareness

The next grant funding date for Cemeteries is April 1, 1991.

For further information, please contact Monika McNabb, Grants Officer, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 8820 - 112 Street, Edmonton, T6G 2P8. Phone: 427-3182.

REMINDER

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Heritage Awards Programme was established in 1981 to publicly recognize excellence in the preservation, promotion and enjoyment of Alberta's heritage.

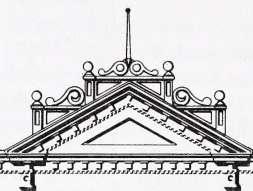
A total of 5 awards are available from these categories:

- Heritage Architecture Award (2)
- Heritage Sites & Resources Award (1)
- Heritage Service Award (1)
- Award of Honour (1)

As well, there will be a new Municipal Heritage Award for municipalities doing outstanding work in the field of heritage.

The deadline for receipt of applications for the Heritage Awards for 1991 is February 1, 1991.

For further information, please contact Monika McNabb, Grants Officer, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 8820 - 112 Street, Edmonton, T6G 2P8 Phone: 427-3182.



THE ALBERTA • MAIN STREET • PROGRAMME

The Alberta Main Street Programme is an initiative to help restore the historic character of Alberta's early commercial main streets. This work helps to bring back the distinctiveness of these communities, making them more interesting to both residents and visitors alike. It provides warm and familiar environments for members of the community while offering unique experiences for tourists.

Aside from the social benefits of revitalizing community heritage, this programme has helped to revitalize the economies of many of these areas at relatively low cost, improved their appearance, increased business and occupancy and tied in with surrounding tourism initiatives.

While for some communities in the 1970s, revitalization meant leveling older buildings and replacing them with new developments, this restoration approach makes the most efficient use of the resources on hand, offers environmentally friendly recycling and is labour rather than materials intensive. We all win.

The Alberta Main Street Programme is supervised and partially sponsored by the

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. Usually, the Foundation commitment to each programme involves: cost sharing of up to \$17,000.00 per year for the coordinator's salary and an annual design grant of up to \$50,000.00 for restoration and rehabilitation of historic commercial facades. As well, the Heritage Canada Foundation has contributed significant technical and financial assistance to this programme.

The Foundation welcomes the opportunity to continue its successful partnership with the communities participating in the Alberta Main Street Programme.

FAREWELL TO ROB GRAHAM

Rob Graham, former Alberta Main Street Programme chief, has recently left Alberta Main Street to become the heritage planner for the city of Calgary. While the Foundation will be rehiring on this position fairly soon, the Board of Directors would again like to express their gratitude to Mr. Graham for his excellent work over the last several years.

NEWS FROM . . .

FORT MACLEOD

As of July 1, 1990 the Main Street Office in Fort Macleod has a new coordinator, Evan Strachan.

Over the summer, a new crafts and collectibles shop called The Country Mouse opened in a historic building on Main Street and two more early building facades have been restored to complete the core of the Historic area.

Preparations are now well under way for the 9th annual Santa Claus Parade on December 1st and it looks like it will be bigger and better than last year. The parade has become the largest and best attended marketing event in Fort Macleod and is still an integral part of the Main Street Office's function.

The Main Street Office is the only Canadian group that made it to the finals of The Downtown Development Association of North America's Awards Competition.

— Evan Strachan, Main Street
Coordinator, Fort Macleod

CROWSNEST PASS

As the Crowsnest Pass Main Street Project wraps up the third year of its commitment to community development, the building programme continues to take a leading role. Reduced supplementary funding, as a result of the cancellation of the ABCD programme, has brought some restrictions on the scope of work. However, four projects have been completed or are in process: Coleman Legion, Crowsnest Shoe Repair, Jo's Maple Leaf Gas and Groceries, and the Bellevue Restaurant.

The Project office continues to be active in community events including having a

major role in the staging of the Crowsnest Corridor Trade Fair. Main Street works closely with the Chamber of Commerce on other events such as Crowsnest Pass Days and Winterfest.

The coordinator has also been active in the past year as a member of the Tourism Action Committee and Ecomuseum Trust Board of Directors. A major effort has been the development of a unique signage system for regional cultural, commercial and recreational facilities.

The Main Street Project continues as an apprenticeship training site and in the past three years, has registered six apprentice carpenters.

— Brad Lucas, Main Street
Coordinator, Crowsnest Pass

CLARESHOLM

Local Claresholm business people believe in self-improvement. Since Main Street began organizing business development courses a year ago, over thirty business people have received certificates in Successful Retailing and Developing a Marketing Plan from the Alberta Vocational Centre. Customer Service seminars for restaurants and gas stations are planned for next spring. Courses are offered through the Chinook Educational Consortium.

Main Street Claresholm is putting the finishing touches on the fifth restoration project from the colourful "Art Moderne" period of the 1940s. Paint scrapings on the Credit Union Administrative Building revealed the original bright coral colour scheme, used as the inspiration for this year's restoration work.

— Joan Wagner, Main Street
Coordinator, Claresholm

Main Street Alberta Update



Facade work in Lacombe.



The restored News Block, Medicine Hat.

*A Main Street Project in
Blairmore.*



Photo Credits: The Alberta Main Street Programme

The Doctor George/Kemp House



Photo Credit: Glenbow-Alberta Institute

The exterior of this gracious brick Victorian house, built in 1893 on "Quality Hill" overlooking Dodd Lake, is almost completely restored now.

In 1977, this stately home was purchased by the Province and designated a historic site. Its historical significance derives from its association with Dr. Henry George, a prominent doctor who contributed to the preservation and collection of natural history in Alberta, and his wife, Barbara Mary Bernard George, the artist credited with the design of the original provincial crest for Alberta. Dr. George renovated the house in 1904 to include a private museum, the first museum in Alberta outside of the National Parks, displaying animal, bird and insect specimens, geological material and cultural artifacts.

Restoration recalls the period when the house belonged to William Kemp, an important local businessman and town councillor and his wife, Katy Jane Kemp, fondly known as 'Grandma Kemp,' who converted the premises to a boardinghouse.

With \$200,000 from the Foundation, \$12,500 from Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and other funding, the Dr. George/Kemp House in Innisfail was lifted, the existing fieldstone and cement basement removed and the house re-installed on a concrete foundation and deeper full basement. Then the old bricks were removed from the wood sheathing on the house. Some were repointed, some cracked

and broken ones replaced and new bricks mixed in with the old to retain the original appearance.

Wood sash, double-hung windows are being replicated and the veranda shading the east and south sides of the house is being reconstructed. As well, the roof has been reduced to its original pre-1930s dimensions and reshingled in cedar.

Project architect David Murray commends the patience and care being devoted to the "very picky" detailed work by local construction manager Bill Peters and his crew. "It's one of the finest restorations I've ever been associated with," he notes.

The Dr. George House Preservation Society plans full restoration of the house to its early 1920s state with a house museum and the establishment of a revenue-generating tea house to make the project economically self-sufficient.

Over the next year, the Society will embark on interior rehabilitation, including a replica of Dr. George's pioneer natural history museum, and final site work. Currently, they are examining sources of funding to assist with the remaining work and are considering ways of integrating the Dr. George/Kemp House with other local points of interest. They hope to complete the refurbishment by 1993, the centennial of the home's original construction.



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services
Completing the restoration of the brick exterior

HERITAGE AWARDS WINNERS 1990

Congratulations to: SHERALI SAJU, BUDGET RENT-A-CAR, Calgary; END OF STEEL HERITAGE SOCIETY, Hines Creek; ESTHER THESBERG, Innisfail; JIMMY, HARRY AND CLIFF SPARKS, Edgerton; JACK OSBORNE, Balzac; GERRY WRIGHT, Edmonton; and ELLY de JONGH, Edmonton.

Our heritage is in good hands. This year, the award winners were chosen from an extremely strong field of candidates. The Foundation received more nominations than ever before and all related to exceptional individuals and projects. The Awards

Committee and the Board faced a very difficult selection process as the nominations were of high calibre, covered a varied range of projects and were hard to compare. We thank everyone who submitted applications and commend all those involved for their efforts and energy.

Foundation Chairman, Charlach Mackintosh presented the Heritage Awards 1990 to the recipients at a celebration dinner in their honour at the Rutherford House Provincial Historic Site in Edmonton, on October 20th.

Architectural Heritage Award



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

Sherali Saju, President Budget Rent-a-Car, Calgary

Sherali Saju and his partners combined civic pride with business acumen and came up winners. They looked at the restoration of Calgary's Firehall #1 as a chance to leave something of value for a community which had welcomed them as new Canadians, and as a chance to invest in future business. "We wanted to do the work in a way we could all be proud of," recalls Mr. Saju. The Foundation honours him for outstanding accomplishment in the preservation and restoration of Calgary's Firehall #1 at 140 - 6 Avenue S.E. The city's Heritage Advisory Board nominated him for the rehabilitation of this historic landmark and commended him as a leader in such work within the business community.

A good example of neo-classical revival



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

architecture, the firehall, built in 1911, is also a Registered Historical Resource. It was in continuous use as Calgary's principal firehall until 1973 but remained vacant thereafter until Budget acquired it.

The architects for the restoration, completed in December 1989, were the I.B.I. Group of Calgary. Much of the original interior has been retained (Fire Chief 'Cappy' Smart's office, even the brass pole remains). A final touch, a replica of the original bell tower was installed in a ceremony on November 20, 1990. Mr. Saju encourages other businesses to consider restoring historic buildings, noting the "excellent support and cooperation" from governments and the Foundation. His commitment to this project has proved to make good business sense for the Budget company.

HERITAGE AWARDS WINNERS 1990

Architectural Heritage Award



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services
Mr. Wilson Coon representing the
End of Steel Heritage Society

The End of Steel Heritage Society Hines Creek

The End of Steel Heritage Society in Hines Creek is recognized with this award for their continuing work saving and restoring numerous buildings on display at the End of Steel Heritage Park and Museum.

Nominated by the village of Hines Creek, the Society has completed restoration and interpretation of five buildings: the Pohoboff, Carter and French houses, the Christ Church and a trapper's home cabin. The



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

park at the corner of Highways 64 and 685, on land donated by the village, offers one of the few opportunities for visitors to learn about settlement of this northern region.

The restored structures are beautiful examples of completely hand-made log buildings. All were in shabby condition, plaster gone, bottom logs decayed, floors rotting. The McKenzie Regional Planning Commission consulted on the project and

Continued on page 12

Heritage Sites and Resources Award



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

Esther Thesberg Innisfail

Esther Thesberg has spent most of her life in Dickson, the oldest Danish settlement in Canada. "I have such good memories of growing up in the area," she reflects. She has been the moving force behind the



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

preservation of the history of Danish settlers, particularly in central Alberta. She has encouraged archival preservation of historical documents and artifacts, written for numerous publications, and collected

Continued on page 12

HERITAGE AWARDS WINNERS 1990

The End of Steel Heritage Society

(continued from page 11)

community volunteers provided most of the labour. Many local residents, including the owner and builder of the trapper's cabin, and friends and children of the original families helped with the preservation of the historic buildings, the pioneer crafts and skills. Mayor

Esther Thesberg

(continued from page 11)

related cultural material and photographs. The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson nominated her for her leadership and for the countless hours she has devoted to restoring the Christiansen Store in Dickson as a local museum and an Alberta Heritage Site.

The Christiansen store opened in 1909. Esther Thesberg recalls it as a focal point for the community, "For a while it was the only place with a phone. It was a sort of community centre." After the store closed in 1979, it remained vacant, sustaining damage from vandals and hail. When the building

Len Rimmer of Hines Creek reports that since Highway 64 was paved last summer, increased tourist traffic uses it as a scenic alternate route through to the Alaska Highway. The End of Steel Heritage Park and Museum is seen as an important element of the development of cultural tourism in the area.

was threatened with demolition in 1985, Ms Thesberg organized the Danish Heritage Society to begin restoration of the store. Since 1987, with the support of Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the Foundation and thousands of hours of volunteer work, the structure has been placed on a new foundation and stabilized. Next May, the store will open as a pioneer museum, restored to the 1920s and 1930s, with displays and artifacts of local history. Ms. Thesberg says she was honoured with the award and accepted it as a tribute to the district and all the people involved, seniors like herself and "a lot of young people who just rolled up their sleeves" and helped.

Heritage Service Awards



**Jim Sparks, Harry Sparks and Cliff Sparks
Edgerton**

The Sparks brothers love to tinker with machinery. For their exemplary service to their local community and the province in preserving artifacts of Alberta's agricultural history and making them accessible to the public, the Foundation presented them with

*Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services
Mary Ann, Susan and Robert Sparks accept
congratulations on behalf of the Sparks brothers
from Foundation Board member Redvers Perry.*

the Heritage Service Award. These mechanically gifted men, with families and full time jobs besides farming, have saved and restored antique farm machinery over the last three decades and are now teaching their children their skills.

Continued on page 16

HERITAGE AWARDS WINNERS 1990

Heritage Service Awards



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

Jack Osborne Balzac

Jack Osborne became involved in heritage preservation and interpretation more than 20 years ago because he could literally see things disappearing. "I watched the land titles office in Calgary knocked down by a wrecking ball. If any piece of history should have been left, that was it," he says.

The Foundation presented him with this

award for his multi-faceted involvement in the placing of cairns and plaques commemorating explorers and historic sites, restoration of artifacts, developing numerous special events relating to historical celebrations and contributing to local history publications. He was nominated by the Nose Creek Historical Society, for which he has long served as a Director, to honour his contributions of time, labour and money to further public awareness of heritage in the Balzac, Airdrie and Calgary area. Mr. Osborne worked on the bell saved from the first schoolhouse in Airdrie, volunteers with the Nose Creek Valley Museum in Airdrie and has restored the coal and wood stove, the churn, kitchen cupboard and washing machine on display there. He particularly enjoys taking tours of school children through the museum because they seem so interested. Besides, he admits, when he spends time with them, "It makes me feel younger."



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

Gerry Wright Edmonton

Gerry Wright is committed to conserving, preserving, rehabilitating urban environments. "I care about cities," he says simply. With this award, the Foundation recognizes the major contributions he has made to heritage in Edmonton, in particular to the city's Old Strathcona district, as a founder of the Old Strathcona Foundation.

Professor Wright was nominated by the Old Strathcona Foundation. He and the other members of the organization were vital in blocking the road development and building demolitions that once threatened Old Strathcona. His efforts helped consolidate community, business, municipal, provincial and even national interest in preserving and rehabilitating this important

Continued on page 18

HERITAGE AWARDS WINNERS 1990

Award of Honour



Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

Elly de Jongh Edmonton

Elly de Jongh has distinguished herself as a fighter for heritage preservation and an active proponent for numerous heritage organizations within the province. Her devotion and vitality have lead her to write dozens of letters to the press, politicians and business interests. In addition, she's logged thousands of volunteer hours in heated campaigns to save endangered buildings in Edmonton and deal with major heritage issues for the province.

Ms de Jongh is known for her energy and drive. "When I believe in something, I like

to carry it through to the end," she admits with a smile. "Even if I don't succeed now, one day I will."

In a letter of support for Ms de Jongh's nomination for the Foundation's Award of Honour, Edmonton Mayor Jan Reimer says, "Elly's stubborn tenacity to see a project through and her tireless dedication in promoting the retention of Edmonton's historic buildings for more than a decade make Elly one of a kind. She is in a class of her own...I greatly value her advice."

Ms de Jongh is a member of the Old Strathcona Foundation, the Edmonton Historical Board, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, and the Society for the Preservation of Architectural Resources in Edmonton (SPARE). She has helped save significant landmarks such as the Macleod Block in downtown Edmonton, Le Marchand Mansion, and Assiniboia Hall, one of the three original brick residences on the University of Alberta campus.

Ms de Jongh is a determined optimist. "We made changes in the urban environment and in the philosophy towards it...It is very gratifying to see the trends are changing now." She's encouraged that more people seem to understand the value of maintaining "the human scale."



*Photo Credit:
Historic Sites Services
Le Marchand
Mansion, Edmonton*

The Edmund and Vena McDougall Bequest

Editor's Note: Amongst Alberta's most significant pioneer families were the McDougalls. Notably, George and his son John were missionaries who helped to settle large parts of the province in the mid to late 1800s. Eventually, this family became important early entrepreneurs in Edmonton. A common tradition of the time of the entrepreneurial class was the grand tour of Europe to collect artifacts and art to decorate their houses in Alberta. Amongst the largest of these collections was that of Edmund McDougall.

Upon his death in October 1988, Edmund H. (Eddie) McDougall left an extensive collection of fine and decorative arts objects to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. Known as the Edmund and Vena McDougall Bequest, the collection was placed on loan to the Provincial Museum of Alberta (P.M.A.) in September 1989. Since the collection was brought to the P.M.A., curator of Western Canadian History, Catherine Cole, and conservator, Doreen Rockliff have been busy assembling a team of experts to catalogue, identify and assess how to preserve the pieces.

After several months of planning, the hands-on work began this summer. Specialists have been hired. The cataloguing process, which involves describing, classifying, dating, authenticating and photographing each individual item, has begun. Artifacts requiring cleaning or stabilization have been identified and conservators have begun treatments. The storage system has been designed and will soon be in place. Concurrently, research into the development and evolution of the collection is also underway.

One of the more interesting aspects of the collection is its breadth and eclectic



Photo Credit: Provincial Museum of Alberta
This scene, based upon a photograph of the entrance to Eddie McDougall's home, shows his juxtaposition of a range of objects from Serres vases to a statue of a Canadian mountie.

character. Eddie and his wife Vena added to the collection begun by his father John A. McDougall, an early Edmonton mayor, MLA and businessman. Efforts are being made to determine where, why, when, how and by whom each of the pieces was acquired in an attempt to understand the McDougalls and what the collection meant to them. The museum will study the collection within the social history context of Edmonton as well as assess the merits of each major aspect of the collection: the European ceramics, the 19th C European paintings, the turn of the century Asian material and the furniture. Research and preliminary treatment of the collection are scheduled to be complete by the summer of 1991.

— Catherine C. Cole, Provincial
Museum of Alberta

Items of Interest

Tribute To Blacksmithing

The Nose Creek Historical Society honoured blacksmiths this summer.

On Sunday, August 19, 1990, they sponsored a Local Historical Recognition in Tribute to Blacksmithing, 1902 - 1990, in conjunction with an Interdenominational Church Service at the Nose Creek Valley Museum in Airdrie. For the event, they produced a booklet containing stories about the farriers who played an important role in the early life of the community.

In the booklet, Redvers Perry writes about the contributions of blacksmiths, from the turn of the century to the 1940s, "sharpening plow shares, shoeing saddle horses and work horses...fitting wooden wheels with metal tires..." and recalls the shops of Airdrie residents W.D. Clark, Tom Flett, "Scotty" Johnson and William "Mac" McHattie.

Joy Leinweber writes about her memories of McHattie in Balzac and Bobby and Sunni Turner record the work of Calgary blacksmith, William George Turner, Morley blacksmith George S. Hope, and Cochrane smithies, Sam Christianson and David Murray. The blacksmiths of Crossfield are remembered by Florence Walker, with particular attention given to the Rettschlag's Blacksmith Shop. She notes that the blacksmith shop replicated in the Nose Creek Valley Museum has been built from the lumber saved from the Rettschlag shop. Alexa Church profiles Yankee Valley farrier, Alex D. Black.

But the last word goes to Mac McHattie, with his poem:

A Blacksmith - from 1892-1947

*My forge and hammer lie reclined,
My bellows too have lost their wind.
My fire extinct;
My forge decayed and in the dust
My vise is laid.
My coal is spent,
My iron - gone.
My anvil broke;
My work is done.
So, farewell to a grand old art,
I need a rest.*

* * * * *

*Jim Sparks, Harry Sparks and Cliff Sparks
(continued from page 12)*

"Each tractor we restore now is completely dismantled. Then we clean and rebuild each part separately. Some parts have to be remanufactured. When we are finished the tractor has all new gaskets and seals and is repainted," they explain. In the 1960s, Cliff and Harry Sparks began with a 1938 John Deere Model "AR" and since then, with brother Jim, they have restored dozens of tractors and equipment, including a 1915 all wood Avery Threshing machine. Jim Sparks is president of the tractor club which has mounted 22 exhibits at the Edgerton Museum and presents shows at the annual community sports day. He is also president of the Edgerton and District Historical Society which proudly nominated the Sparks brothers for this award.

Items of Interest

Big Valley Station Restored



*Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services
Big Valley Station*

One of the most integral and distinctive parts of the cultural landscape of prairie towns is their early railway station. Yet, unfortunately, many are being lost. Such is not the case, however, at Big Valley.

The 1912 Canadian Northern Railway 2nd Class Station at Big Valley, along with the interpretive remains of the round, once more depicts an early branchline divisional point depot. The Canadian Northern Society officially re-dedicated the newly refurbished station at a ceremony and luncheon on Sunday, July 29, 1990. People of all ages came out to join the community celebration and ride a vintage steam train from Big Valley to Stettler.

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation contributed \$5,000 to the



*Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services
C. Redvers Perry presents a cheque on behalf of the Foundation to D. A. Tiegs, President, Canadian Northern Society*

restoration project. The building contains a museum of local history and railway memorabilia and now serves as Canadian Northern Society headquarters.

New Communications Network Initiated

Telephone museums opened new lines of communication with one another in Edmonton this summer. The Edmonton Telephone Historical Information Centre hosted the first ever North American Telephone Museums Conference, June 18-20, 1990.

Sixteen delegates from across Canada and the U.S. reported on their collections and facilities, participated in interactive workshops and attended formal sessions. According to Bert Yeudall, managing director of the Edmonton Telephone Historical Information Centre, "Sharing information about existing museums and ideas for expansion raised issues delegates could use to make changes to facilities in the planning stages." In particular, new developments at the Interactive Communications Complex in Brantford, Ontario and major expansion plans for the Alexander Graham Bell National History Park in Baddeck, Nova Scotia were of special interest to delegates involved in designing the new Bell History Centre in Boston, he notes.

The new communication network set up among telephone museums will continue, Yeudall confirms. Bell Canada will host a 1992 conference at its headquarters in Montreal. And, as a result of the calls since the conference from people wanting information about existing collections, the Edmonton Telephone Historical Information Centre has recently published a Directory of Telephone Museums, listing Canadian and American telephone and communications museums and institutions with a substantial related collection, open to the public. It includes locations, hours open, contact names, addresses and telephone numbers.

Items of Interest

National Heritage Policy Conference

A national conference entitled "HERITAGE IN THE 1990'S - TOWARDS A GOVERNMENT OF CANADA STRATEGY," sponsored by the federal Department of Communications and the Department of the Environment, drew 250 invited delegates from across the country to Edmonton on October 26 - 28. Its purpose was to identify national goals for the field of heritage and in particular, to make suggestions about federal structures and programmes.

General consensus arose on the need to broaden the traditional definition of heritage to include more partners, to establish a federal body to disseminate grants for community heritage initiatives, to create a national heritage trust, and to begin a central resource centre on heritage economics and technical matters accessible through a 1-800 telephone number. Delegates also agreed on the need to include native concerns in any national heritage policy and to resurrect the concept of tax incentives for preservation.

Guest speakers included the federal Minister of the Environment, Robert de Cotret and Jim Edwards, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications. Representatives of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation,

Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, the Alberta Museums Association, the Alberta Archives Council, the Historical Society of Alberta and the Alberta Genealogical Society amongst others helped to put forward this province's interests at the sessions. The conference input is to be incorporated into a series of short and long term plans being prepared by the two federal agencies.

Museums Explore Natural History

The Alberta Museums Association's Annual Conference took place from October 25 - 28th in Drumheller. The theme this year of building natural bridges focussed on human history based museums extending into natural history and science. The Royal Tyrrell Museum was used as a backdrop for parts of the discussions. Approximately 200 delegates from across the province attended the sessions. Guest speakers included CBC Radio's Jay Ingram of Quirks & Quarks and filmmaker Anne Wheeler. Mr. Greg Alcorn of the Edmonton Police Museum was elected the Association's President for this next year. Foundation Board Director Bruce Haig of Lethbridge and Grants Coordinator, Monika McNabb of Edmonton attended the Conference on the Foundation's behalf. Next year's annual meeting is planned for Red Deer.

Gerry Wright

(continued from page 13)

heritage area. A favourite project for him was the restoration of the Strathcona Library, slated for closure and possible demolition. One large firm quoted over \$2 million for the job, but Professor Wright persuaded the Old Strathcona Board to use independent small developers who thought they could do the work for less. Their workers devoted personal attention and pride to the job and the library was restored for \$280,000. It is a valued community resource today.

For almost two decades, Professor Wright has been involved in many area transportation studies, district redevelopment plans, was a founder of the Society to Preserve Architectural Resources in Edmonton (SPARE) and is now working with 124th Street and Fort Road merchants in Edmonton on heritage district planning. He is currently studying the benefits to local economies of restoring older buildings and neighbourhoods. "If you enhance these, you enhance the quality of life for people who live there and for others who move around and through the city," he explains.

Items of Interest

Stone Fence Rebuilt

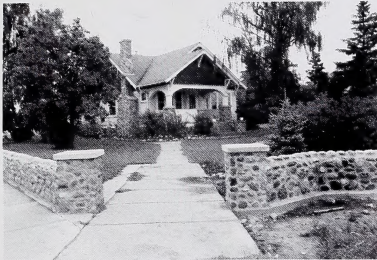


Photo Credit: Historic Sites Services

The Rimbey Historical Society had a special reason to celebrate at the annual Autumn Apple Festival on September 29, 1990. They gathered to mark the completion of a replica of the original stone fence around the oldest house in Rimbey, the Beatty residence, built in 1925.

In 1919, the same year Rimbey was incorporated as a village, Jack and Violet Beatty arrived from Saskatchewan to set up a hardware store. They lived over the shop until fire destroyed the building in 1923. Two years later, they built a new home for themselves, with fine landscaping and a low stone wall. Beatty not only ran his hardware business, he also owned land and cattle and was active in community affairs until he died in 1956. The Rimbey Historical Society bought the Beatty House in 1987, preserving it to maintain a part of Rimbey heritage. With its original woodwork and finishing still intact, it is a favoured choice for community events and festivals and meetings of local groups. The Beatty House is awaiting designation as a Local Historic Resource.

A grant of \$8,000 from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation has helped the Rimbey Historical Society build a new fence similar in style, character, proportion and materials to the one built 65 years ago. In the summer of 1988, excavation at the location of the old fence yielded remnants of

pillars and stonework. Gary Chen, Restoration Advisory Officer with Historic Sites Services, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, investigated and indicated that it would not be feasible to restore the old fence. So local stone mason, Ad Vos has worked with members of the Society who brought field stones from the surrounding area to recreate the fence. And now, once again, an expertly crafted low stone wall stands around the property.

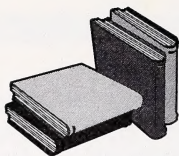
Contributions to the Foundation

MAJOR DONATION

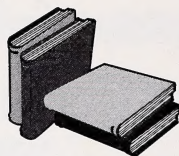
Dorothy G. McCelroy

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Books



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Meeting Place – Rundle's Mission at Pigeon Lake, Alberta, by Gerald M. Hutchinson. Published by Rundle's Mission Conference Centre Inc. This new monograph contains historical information previously unpublished and includes photographs, sketches, journal entries and first-hand reports. It relates to events following the arrival of Reverend Robert T. Rundle, the first missionary permitted to settle in Hudson's Bay Company Territory west of the The Pas, Manitoba. The focus is primarily on the mission site at Pigeon Lake and highlights its development and use over the last 150 years. The Meeting Place was produced with the support of an Alberta Historical Resources Foundation grant. Copies at \$8.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling may be obtained from Rundle's Mission Conference Centre, 6716 - 87 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2Y8.

Red Deer Historical Walking Tours (revised third edition), jointly prepared by the Red Deer Historical Preservation Committee and Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.

The three walking tours represent an intriguing and interesting cross-section of Red Deer's history, generally prior to 1914. Complete with photos, this handbook also contains an excellent glossary to help both novice and expert identify particularly fascinating features of local historical sites. For further information, contact: Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Historic Sites Service, 8820 - 112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P8, Telephone: 427-2022; or The Red Deer and District Museum, 4525 - 47A Avenue, P.O. Box 800, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5H2, Telephone: 343-6844.

MAGAZINES OF INTEREST

Landmark, a magazine about the treatment and development of urban and natural

environments, published six times a year by Consolidated Communications. This visually interesting and informative magazine explores recycling, revitalization and unique approaches to restoration. The August 1990 issue featured the Japanese Gardens in Lethbridge and the continuing work of Main Street, Alberta. Once a year, Landmark focuses on preservation. In August 1991, it will feature the Crownsnest Pass Ecomuseum. Price: one year \$30; two years \$45. Single copy: \$6.00.

For copies, contact: Randi Berting, Editor, 200, 807 Manning Rd. N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 7M8.

Network, a magazine dedicated to cemeteries, also published by Consolidated Communications. This publication sometimes features restored historical cemeteries. It contains current information for businesses and craftspeople servicing and supplying cemeteries, tours ancient and historic burial sites, and thoughtfully and articulately discusses issues such as the desecration of Jewish cemeteries this past summer around the world. Price: \$30/yr; \$45/two years. For further information, contact: Randi Berting, Publisher, 200, 807 Manning Rd. N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 7M8.



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